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Novato, CA 94949

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Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Update

RAB Responsibilities

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), is an advisory board made up of interested and concerned community members who reflect the diverse interests of the local community as well as representatives of state, local, and federal agencies. The RAB is designed to serve as a focal point for the exchange of information between the Army and Navy and the community regarding those restoration activities presently underway, as well as those planned for future studies and remediation.

The Hamilton RAB meets quarterly. **The next RAB meeting is April 14, 2004.** To receive further information regarding the RAB, community involvement, environmental cleanup at Hamilton, or to be added to the Hamilton RAB mailing list, please contact: **Joy Lanzaro (415) 883-6386.**

Upcoming Meetings

The next **RAB Meeting** will be held at the Novato Police Station Meeting Room on **Wednesday, April 14, 2004, 7 p.m.**

For More Information

Army BRAC Environmental Office

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Information Repositories

Marin County Public Library, Novato Branch
1720 Novato Boulevard, Novato, CA 94947
tel: (415) 897-1141

Army BRAC Environmental Office (Call for an appointment)
www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-pm/haaf/rab/rab.html
www.efds.w.navfac.navy.mil/Environmental/Novato.htm

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

H A M I L T O N A R M Y A I R F I E L D

ARMY SAMPLING DATA INDICATE NO IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS NORTHWEST OF THE RUNWAY

A dispute over allegations of toxic dumping on the airfield property is now one step closer to being resolved. The Army's preliminary results from soil sampling conducted in November 2003 show no signs of contamination in an alleged disposal area.

The allegation was raised at the December 2000 RAB meeting by Mr. Robert Foley, a Bel Marin Keys resident and former Army logistics inspector. Mr. Foley stated that in the mid-1980s, he was told that the Army had disposed of hazardous materials near the runway in the northwest quadrant of the airfield at Hamilton. The area in question is expected to serve as upland habitat in the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project.

Previous laboratory analysis of soil in the area indicated no health threats and a review of aerial photographs showed no indication that the area had been physically or chemically altered. In response to continued concern by Mr. Foley and Ms. Sue Lattanzio, a Bel Marin Key resident and director of the Friends of Novato Creek (FNC), the Army conducted a comprehensive search of historical records pertaining to all Army disposal activities and practices that would lead to substantiating the claim. However, such information was not found. "There was no indication in the records or in the photographs that any disposal had occurred," according to Ed Keller, the Army BRAC Environmental Coordinator for Hamilton.

Mr. Foley pointed out that the Archives Search Report did not properly identify the location of the alleged disposal area. On March 18, 2002, Mr. Keller met with Mr. Foley and a group comprised of Ms. Naomi Feger of the Regional Water Quality Control

Board (RWQCB) and concerned community members; Ms. Lattanzio (FNC), and Ms. Elena Belsky. During the site walk, Mr. Foley confirmed the location and provided further clarification that he assumed the materials in question were poured onto the ground, based on his recollection of site conditions. The boundaries of the area were marked and recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS).

To determine whether the alleged contaminants were present, the Army, in coordination with the FNC, developed a sampling plan that was reviewed and approved by the RWQCB. On November 18 and 19, 2003, a group including representatives

Continued to **ARMY SAMPLING DATA**, inside



Area of recent sampling

Safe Conditions at North Bay Children's Center & Novato Charter School

On January 4, 2004, the Marin Independent Journal newspaper published an article suggesting that the gasoline plume originating from the former Naval Exchange (NEX) gas station on the corner of C Street and Main Gate Road had changed direction, and that the plume was migrating eastward toward the North Bay Children's Center and the Novato Charter School (see Figure 1, right). The agencies responsible for the cleanup have a different view.

"The Navy, regulatory agencies, and City of Novato agree that the MTBE plume is not moving eastward, and that the North Bay Children's Center and Novato Charter School remain safe for children and adults," explained Jennifer Valenzia, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest Division BRAC Environmental Coordinator for Novato.

All available data shows that the NEX gas station plume has been extensively studied and is very well characterized. Groundwater samples have been collected on a quarterly basis for six years at over 50 sampling locations. Soil-gas probes located in areas potentially affected by the current treatment system (biosparging), including four probes on the school property, are monitored on a monthly basis to ensure safe operation.

"Quarterly groundwater monitoring shows that low to nondetect MTBE concentrations exist on the school property east of C Street, and that groundwater is moving north, away from the North Bay Children's Center. In addition, the

school property is situated above shallow bedrock, which minimizes the potential for eastward movement of groundwater," Valenzia said.

Figure 2 (below) illustrates the low to non-detect MTBE concentrations and the bedrock's role in minimizing the potential eastward movement of groundwater.

Recent risk calculations conducted by the Navy and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) have shown that both the North Bay Children's Center and the Novato Charter School are safe for children and adults. The 1999 Tier 3 Risk Assessment conducted by the Navy found that MTBE groundwater concentrations of 135,000 parts per billion (ppb) and 184,000 ppb are protective of adults and children, respectively, while in November 2003, the highest concentration detected in groundwater on the school property was 5.4 ppb.

As a result of cleanup activities conducted since 1992, the Navy has achieved remarkably successful results at the NEX gas station:

- ♦ **Removed greater than 95% of the estimated mass of gasoline constituents** in the soils near the former gasoline storage tanks.
- ♦ **Removed approximately 99% of the estimated dissolved mass of benzene** in groundwater.
- ♦ **Decreased MTBE concentrations in the biosparging treatment area by 74%** over 15 months of operation.

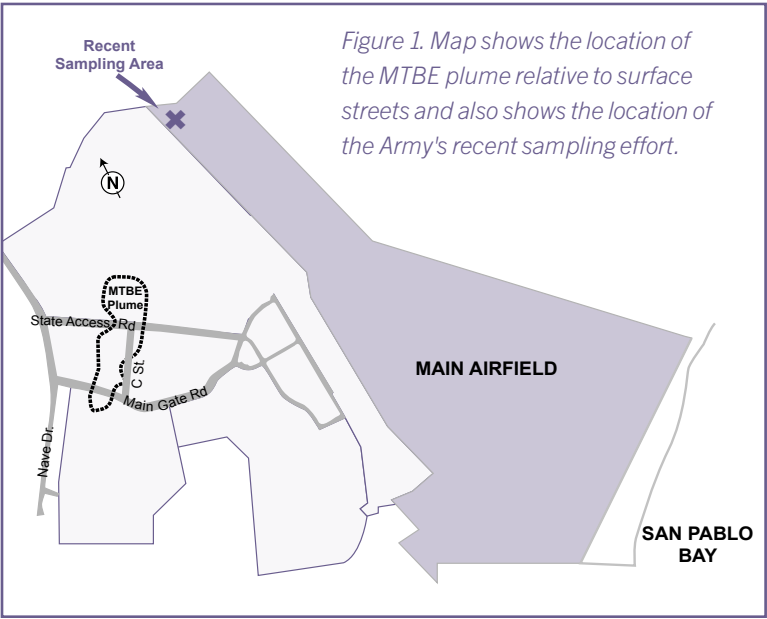


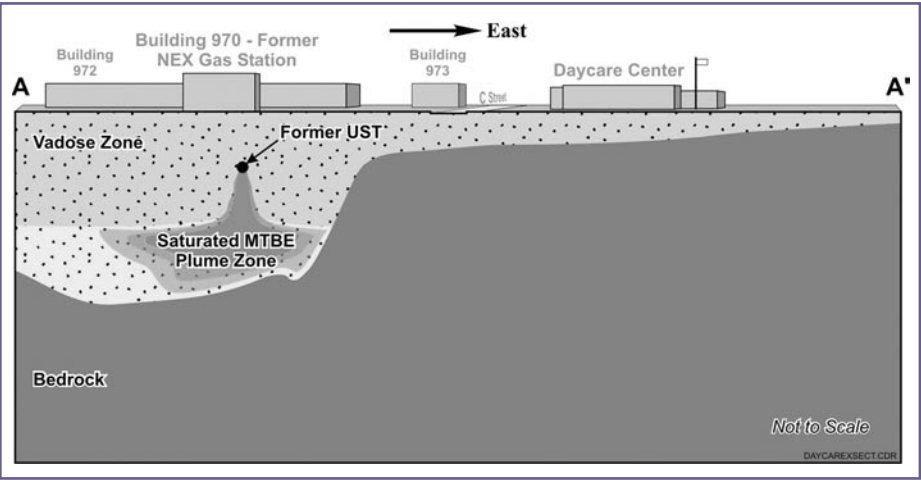
Figure 1. Map shows the location of the MTBE plume relative to surface streets and also shows the location of the Army's recent sampling effort.

The Navy's biosparging system has operated safely and successfully since it began in September 2002. The current remedial plans call for continued biosparging operation until the cleanup goals are met or until the biosparging system is no longer cost effective at removing gasoline compounds from groundwater. After the biosparging system is shut down, quarterly groundwater monitoring will continue to ensure concentrations do not rebound. Natural attenuation is the long-term remedial approach that will be used to reach the final cleanup goals at the site.

"Monthly sampling will continue during treatment system operation and associated cleanup activities to ensure that the school property remains safe," Valenzia said.

For additional information, please visit the Navy's document repository at the South Novato Library or call Jennifer Valenzia at (619) 532-0919.

Figure 2. Diagram of Subsurface Conditions in the Area of the Former NEX Gas Station, North Bay Children's Center, and Novato Charter School



ARMY SAMPLING DATA Continued from front page

from the Army as well as RWQCB, FNC, Mr. Foley and an independent geologist observed the collection of samples. Twenty-three soil samples were collected from 12 locations within the area in question. An additional 12 split samples were collected for analysis by FNC. A split sample is one

where the soil is split between two containers for analysis by two different laboratories.

Preliminary data from the Army samples indicate that the alleged disposal activities did not take place. The FNC has yet to present their findings.

"We are interested in the FNC's analysis and look forward to resolving this issue," says Mr. Keller. The sampling report is expected to be completed in April 2004. Copies will be made available to the public in the Novato Public Library as well as the Hamilton Army BRAC office library.

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Tim Crummett, US Army Corps of Engineers Staff Geologist, examines a core sample

FIVE NEW TENANTS MOVE INTO RENOVATED HANGARS

Novato YMCA makes Hamilton its new home!

Hamilton Marin, LLC, owners of the Hamilton hangars, signed five leases for commercial space in the renovated Hamilton hangars since May 2003. One of the new tenants includes the Novato YMCA, which now occupies a portion of the first floor of hangar 3.

Since November 1998, the developer Barker Pacific Group has been revitalizing the seven hangars for commercial use. Hangars 3 through 6 are now complete. The tenants range from non-profit foundations to insurance companies and medical offices. The Marin

County Free Library is also planning to move into hangar 6 by June 2004. "People are attracted to the space because of the reuse aspect and also because of the aesthetics of the old hangars that we have maintained in the development," says Haden Ongaro, Leasing Agent of Orion Partners Ltd.

Paul Herrerias of Herrerias and Associates, an executive search and leadership consulting firm located on the first floor of hangar 5, has lived at Hamilton's Shea Homes development since 2001. He finds

the convenience of his new location to be very attractive both personally and professionally. "It's great to live and work at Hamilton because it feels rural but has all the amenities," he said.

For more information, please contact Haden Ongaro of Orion Partners Ltd at (415) 472-8713.

"We love being in this facility and the neighborhood has been very receptive," says Jayne Belote, Associate Executive Director of the Novato YMCA. "We could not ask for a better group of people to be working with."

Left: Newly renovated Hangar 5
Right: Paul Herrerias (center) of Herrerias Associates is welcomed by Richard Johnson, Chief Financial Officer of the Barker Pacific Group, & Haden Ongaro of Orion Partners Ltd.

